

- A reduction in positions in the laboratory as well as AES field inspectors. The Lab currently employs only one germination analyst, down from six.
- To compensate the reduction in germination analyst, require the three purity analyst to also perform germination analyses.
- Eliminating the use of student workers which, at one time, were a contributing work force in the laboratory and in the office.
- Reducing to a minimum, the number of field inspections in certified tissue culture sugarcane (from 4 field inspections to 3 field inspections during the growing season).
- Implementing further cross utilization of lab employees by requiring the seed program coordinator to take regulatory seed samples, perform certified field inspections and lab analyses.
- Cross training clerical personnel to perform laboratory duties.
- Assist district personnel in field inspections of certified tissue culture sugarcane and rice.
- Plan to increase Seed Dealer's License Fee to maximum amount allowed by law, from \$75 to \$100.
- Plan to establish a handling fee for Liberty Link rice samples.

Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division

- Through Act 63 of the 2008 Regular Session, we consolidated the Horticulturist and Landscape Contractor licenses. These two licenses were so closely related (one for landscape installation & the other for landscape maintenance), they were combined into one landscape horticulturalist license. Act 63 also reduced the membership of the Horticulture Commission from 14 members to 13 members due to the consolidation. The consolidation resulted in an annual loss of revenue of approximately \$52,000.
- Compliance Agreement initiatives (*in place now and ongoing*) – reduces level of inspector oversight of regulatory requirements.
- We have reduced the number of sweet potato weevil trappers- these activities have been absorbed by our Agricultural Environmental Specialists (inspectors)
- We have reduced the number of full-time and seasonal Boll Weevil personnel.
- Voluntary Compliance activities – education, cooperative endeavors (*ongoing*) – reduces the need for mandatory regulatory compliance.
- Posting of information on the LDAF website such as Laws and Regulations, applications, regulatory requirements, and anything else that eliminates or reduces mail-outs to affected parties (*in place now*).
- Bi-monthly electronic newsletter ("Q-Files") in place of intermittent program updates for outlying Districts (*in place now*).
- Use of digital imagery to speed identification of field-collected pests of concern (*in place now*).

- Use of latest biological technology in survey and monitoring for plant pests when available, particularly use of pheromone traps and PDA data capture for JB (Japanese Beetle), GM (Gypsy Moth), MRB (Mexican Rice Borer), BW (Boll Weevil), SPW (Sweetpotato Weevil), AHB (Africanized Honey Bee) and various Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program surveys (*in place now*).
- SPW & BW Program – pheromone trapping, use of GPS systems for mapping, and use of barcode readers with data upload capabilities allowing for automated creation of reports (*in place now*). These technologies have contributed greatly to the success of these programs.
- E-Permits (in cooperation with USDA-PPQ for Postentry Quarantine, Live Plant Pest Movement and Transgenic Field Trial programs) (*in place now*).
- Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHMB) Biocontrol program – innovative use of natural 'green' control technology (*ongoing*). LDAF's efforts to release a natural biological control agent (a small wasp) have resulted in very successful management of the PHMB populations, resulting in the safeguarding of many of Louisiana's major agricultural crops (sugarcane, cotton, soybeans, corn, sweet potatoes, citrus) from this pest. This survey/monitoring activity has been eliminated because it has accomplished its goal. The insect pest is established in the state and LDAF's efforts to release a natural biological control agent (a small wasp) have resulted in very successful management of the PHMB populations, resulting in the safeguarding of many of Louisiana's major agricultural crops (sugarcane, cotton, soybeans, corn, sweet potatoes, citrus) from this pest.
- Giant Salvinia Biocontrol program – innovative use of natural 'green' control technology (*ongoing*).
- Electronic Phytosanitary Certification Program (PCIT) for export of Louisiana agricultural products (*in the near future*).
- Use of GPS guidance system with recording capability in aircraft to review and critique flight data, thus eliminating the need for visual/in-field inspections.
- Africanized Honey Bee – this survey activity to monitor the natural migration of this organism across the state has been eliminated permanently due to natural spread throughout most of the state. In addition, this survey activity is not part of our mandated mission.
- Cogongrass – The Horticulture & Quarantine Programs' role in dealing with this established weed pest is being reviewed for elimination. The grass does not pose a direct threat to AES-related concerns, although it does hold the potential to threaten the state's managed forests and wooded lands. Federal funds are channeled through LDAF's Forestry Division that can be used for Cogongrass survey. AES participation on Cogongrass Task Forces, etc. also could be minimized or eliminated.
- Pine Shoot Beetle (Christmas tree) – this inspection activity has not found any problems with this pine pest in its 17 years of implementation and has been eliminated. If federal funding is provided for occasional pine commodity surveys, those surveys might suffice to adequately monitor for the pine shoot beetle, eliminating the need to do our annual inspections at retail and wholesale cut Christmas tree sales locations.

- Japanese Beetle (in part) – this survey activity is under review for a focus of field efforts in those portions of the state (north) where the risk for establishment of this pest is greatest, reducing the number and distribution of traps deployed.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY



OFFICE OF AGRO-CONSUMER SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

SUBMITTED BY:
MIKE STRAIN, DVM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT: Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
OFFICE: Office of Agro-Consumer Services
STAFF CONTACT: Benjy Rayburn, Assistant Commissioner
LAST UPDATE: 08/21/ 2009

Section One: Agency Overview

Identify your overarching reform goal(s) for the agency. As many of you experienced during the legislative session, it is paramount that you always strive to make our policy and programmatic goals clear and understandable to those outside your agency.

This could also include a brief general narrative description of what the agency does if it is not obvious from the goals.

Review and briefly outline the constitutional and statutory mandates for your agency.

Determine what is required of your agency by law as distinct from the actual activities of your department.

Statutory Authority

Dairy Division

Milk Testing – LRS 3:4001 – 4014

The Milk Testing program works closely with other dairy groups such as the LA Dept. of Health, L.S.U. Dairy Science Department, LA Cooperative Extension Service, LA Dairy Products Association to regulate and maintain volume measurement and butterfat testing of milk and cream. Licensing of technical personnel, issuing statistical reports and establishing uniform technical procedures throughout the state is part of this program.

Dairy Stabilization Board – LRS 3:4106 – 4117 (generated revenue budgeted at \$285,000, two employees)

- Appointed by Governor (certain statutory powers divided between board and Commissioner)

Dairy Stabilization Board addresses' problems created in the marketplace and provides a regulatory program designed to stabilize the dairy industry in order to assure an adequate supply of dairy products to consumers at fair prices. We license all processors, distributors, and retailers of dairy products in order to protect the dairy farmers from price wars and disruptive trade practices. Complaints are investigated and violations of the regulations for unfair methods of competition, unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and disruptive trade practices are sanctioned.

Milk Buyers Bonding Law – LRS 3:641 – 645

- Statutory bond requirement for anyone purchasing milk from producers or Co-op assns.

Louisiana Ag Commodities Commission

The goal of the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission (LACC) is to provide regulatory services to ensure consumer protection for Louisiana producers and consumers.

Program activities and statutory authority includes:

R.S. 3:3401-3425 - Licensing Program: The Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission is responsible for licensing warehouses, grain dealers and cotton merchants that do business in Louisiana. The LACC requires proof of viable financial standing in the form of financial statements, proof of provisional stock insurance, and proof of security for warehouses and grain dealers. All financial statements are carefully reviewed for financial stability so the Louisiana producer will be guaranteed payment.

R.S. 3:3401-3425 - Warehouse Program: The Department performs physical inventories and inspections of all warehouses for suitability and storage of commodities. Warehouse receipts, which are used by producers and lending institutions as a means of financing the producer's operations, are examined and checked for accuracy.

R.S. 3:3414.3 – Grain Grader/Sampler Certification: Graders and samplers are certified on an annual basis by the Department. Initial certification requires passing a written examination. Testing and certification fees are charged.

R.S. 3:3422 – Moisture Meter Certification Program: All moisture meters utilized in assessing grain moisture for discount purposes are checked by the Department to insure proper reading. A fee is charged for each inspection.

R.S. 3:3401-3425 – Grain Commodity Program: Inspectors compare the quality or the condition of agricultural commodities with the official standards set forth by the federal government to determine the official grade of the commodity. Inspections of samples for factors such as color, shape, odor or other specific conditions are used in issuing inspection certificates.

Weights and Measures

R.S. 3:4601 - 4705

R.S. 3:4604. Powers

R.S. 3:4607. Inspection and testing; entry upon premises

R.S. 3:4680. Commissioner, powers and duties

A. The department shall keep a general supervision over the weights, measures, and weighing and measuring devices offered for sale, sold, and in use in the state. When not otherwise provided by law, the department may inspect, test, and try all weights, measures, and weighing or measuring devices used, kept, offered, or exposed for sale, in order to ascertain whether or not they are correct.

B. At least once a year and more often if it thinks necessary, the department shall so inspect, test, and try all commercial weighing or measuring devices.

C. From time to time, the department shall weigh or measure and inspect packages or amounts of commodities of whatever kind kept for the purpose of sale, offered or exposed for sale, or sold in the process of delivery, in order to determine whether they contain the amounts represented and whether they are offered for sale or sold in a manner in accordance with law.

D.....

Brief narrative description of Weights & Measures Functions:

W&M inspects and tests on a yearly basis, all weighing, metering, and scanning devices used commercially in the State to ensure that equity prevails for buyer and sellers. These devices range from scales at the local grocery store to fuel dispensers at gas stations. W&M also investigates consumer complaints received by the Department that are related to statutorily mandated functions.

Ensures motor fuels used in the state meet the specification requirements as set forth by law and regulations by regularly pulling random samples from all parts of the state for analysis in our motor fuels testing lab. Each sample is checked for octane rating, distillation compliance and foreign matter or water.

W&M weighs or measures, and inspects packages or amounts of commodities for sale, offered for sale, or sold in the process of delivery, in order to determine if they contain the stated quantity and meet labeling requirements.

The metrology laboratory is responsible for maintaining the State standards of mass, length and volume which are used for the calibration and certification of those devices and instruments used in commerce, industry, education and research institutions.

Sources of Statutory dedicated funding for carrying out administrative and enforcement functions of Office:

R.S. 3:4111 – Dairy Stabilization Assessments

R.S. 3:3422-3423 – Agricultural Commodity Dealers and Warehouse Fund

R.S. 3:4622 – Weights and Measures Fund

R.S. 3:4622 – Petroleum Products Fund

List those mandates which impede attaining agency goal(s) and suggestions for changes in law(s).

There are no mandates that impede attaining agency goals.

To date, all necessary statutory changes have been made.

Section Two: Efficiency and Benchmarking

Identify under-performing programs that should be overhauled or eliminated. The Commission will call on you to justify your programming based on performance and whether or not you are meeting the needs of Louisiana's citizens.

Dairy Division

Milk Testing – LRS 3:4001 – 4014 (no revenue generated, two employees paid out of cost center, possible consolidation)

Milk Buyers Bonding Law – LRS 3:641 – 645 (no revenue, could be consolidated)

Louisiana Ag Commodities Commission

At this time there are no under-performing programs that should be overhauled or eliminated.

Weights and Measures

At this time there are no under performing programs in the Weights & Measures Division.

Weights & Measures performs an important role in ensuring that all the consumers in Louisiana are receiving the correct amount in which they are charged.

Section Three: Outsourcing and privatization

List programs, functions, or activities that can be privatized or outsourced. This is a specific focus of the Commission. Consider this idea throughout your analysis, and offer a list of possible activities at the end of your report.

Dairy Division

Private labs are performing butterfat analysis. No known sources for outsourcing or privatizing dairy stabilization functions.

Louisiana Ag Commodities Commission

The grain program is designated and accredited by the federal government therefore, outsourcing is not an option. Personnel in the grain program are highly trained and specialized in order to maintain the proper procedures and requirements for the program.

Weights and Measures

We are not aware of anyone outsourcing the services offered by Weights & Measures except for lab work. The shipping and testing of fuel samples by private labs would be cost prohibitive and causes an undue hardship on private industry and the public. Additionally, our response to consumer complaints would be negatively impacted.

Section Four: Information Technology Integration

List IT projects already underway designed to improve efficiency and effectiveness as well as potential projects. This could include adoption of single technology platforms to increase purchasing power, reduce maintenance costs and provide better service. If you are aware of how the LaGov ERP project will improve your agencies operations or have suggestions to that end, provide them here.

Dairy Division

N/A

Louisiana Ag Commodities Commission

N/A

Weights and Measures

Having a commercial software program such as Win-Wam to install on the inspector's lap tops has shown to increase the efficiency of the inspectors to serve the public in a timely manner. We have consulted with other states using this program and they have found it to be a wonderful tool for their inspectors. Budgetary constraints have prohibited acquisition.

Section Five: Elimination of Duplicative and Unnecessary Services List the activities of your department that fall outside of your constitutional and statutory mandates. Briefly describe the history of these programs, offices, or activities and how they became a part of your mission.

N/A

Identify outdated activities that should no longer be part of the mission of your agency. Act 491 notes that "many state agencies were created over 30 years ago and a review...is needed to determine whether the purpose served by the agency or activity, function, program, or service continues to be relevant."

Milk Testing - Limited activity exists with this program other than licensing haulers/transporters, which has merit. This is done in cooperation with DHH Dairy Division." (no revenue generated, two employees paid out of cost center, possible consolidation)

Identify duplication or overlap with other state agencies, with the federal government, or with public or private stakeholder groups.

Dairy Division

Some functions in milk testing overlap with DHH Dairy division.

Louisiana Ag Commodities Commission

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is an official designee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Association (GIPSA) delegates qualified state agencies to inspect and weigh grain at certain U.S. export port locations; and designate qualified state agencies to inspect and weigh grain at interior locations. GIPSA licenses all state agency personnel who perform official inspection and weighing services, and oversees the system at large.

There are no duplicative or unnecessary services within this office.

All programs that are a part of the mission are still active in order to better serve and protect the producers and consumers in Louisiana.

There are no private groups in the state of Louisiana that performs the functions of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's grain program.

Weights and Measures

There are no programs remaining that would be considered unnecessary. There is no duplication of services. No other state or federal agency performs these functions in Louisiana.

Metrology lab accredited by National Institute of Standards and Technology to calibrate artifacts (weights) used commercially.

Section Six: Civil Service and Employee Benefits.

List and indentify any current initiatives or ideas related to employee benefits, hiring and promotion, and other employee regulations.

Hiring has been extremely limited and promotions have not been granted due to budgetary constraints and consolidation.

Section Seven: Studies and other Resources

Please list:

- Any studies (with a brief description) your agency has conducted that may be of interest to the Commission
- Any national studies or studies in other states that might be of relevance
- National organizations that might be a source of potential best practices for Louisiana. If a website exists for the organization, please provide it.

There have been no studies, local or national, conducted by this agency.

There are two organizations related to agricultural commodity regulation that might be a source of potential best practices for Louisiana.

1. American Association of Grain Inspection and Weighing Agencies (AAGIWA)
www.aagiwa.org
2. National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA)
www.ngfa.org

Section Eight: Agency Best Practices

List and indentify any current successful streamlining initiatives taking place (or has taken place) within your agency.

The Office of Agro-Consumer Services has reduced staff by 16% in the last two years. This has been accomplished through attrition/turnover and not rehiring, retirement incentives, and restructuring/consolidation of administrative and supervisory positions.

Reduced office staff has assumed additional responsibilities and workload. Field personnel have been given more responsibilities and larger work areas.

Additionally, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agro-Consumer Services, had three operating and staffed grain labs in Louisiana. The decision was made to close one lab and redistribute the job duties of two eliminated supervisory positions and lab workload to the remaining personnel and labs.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY



OFFICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

SUBMITTED BY:
MIKE STRAIN, DVM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT: Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
OFFICE: Office of Animal Health and Food Safety
STAFF CONTACT: Michelle Ribera, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
LAST UPDATE: 8/31/2009

SECTION ONE: AGENCY OVERVIEW

1. Identify your overarching reform goals for the agency.

Although the budget for Office of Animal Health and Food Safety has been reduced continually over the last ten years, the administrators and employees of this division continue to accomplish our stated mission and strive to surpass the expectations of Commissioner Mike Strain and the citizenry served by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

PROGRAM MISSION: The overall mission of the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety, through state and federal mandates, is to guard and protect the integrity of the livestock industry against animal diseases through diagnostic, preventative, eradication and other deterrent measures. Additionally, the office is responsible for protecting the food chain, public health and general welfare of the Louisiana citizenry by assuring that meat, seafood, poultry, eggs, fruits and vegetables and their products are properly identified, labeled, inspected and accurately graded. The Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and food safety is also responsible for the control of livestock theft and denying a market for stolen cattle and horses in Louisiana, all in accordance with applicable laws. The Office of Animal Health and Food Safety presently houses the department's Emergency Response Team.

PROGRAM GOAL: The goal of the program is to maintain a safe and healthful food supply for the people of Louisiana, while protecting and safeguarding the producers of these products. The program inspects and grades food products, controls livestock diseases and tracks ownership of livestock. The activities of this program are: Administrative, Federal/State Meat Program, Poultry and Egg Inspection, Veterinary Health Division, Livestock Theft Prevention and Emergency Response Team.

2. Review and briefly outline the constitutional and statutory mandates for your agency.

THE LIVESTOCK BRAND COMMISSION (LBC): In carrying out the statutory responsibility stated in R.S. 3:731-750, the eleven (11) commissioned law enforcement officers protect property through the investigation of farm related crimes with the main focus on the identification of livestock via brands, microchip and tattoo. The officers deter and investigate agricultural related crimes and bring perpetrators to justice. As a result of carrying out our duties, the following was accomplished during the past fiscal year:

- In the process of investigating agricultural related crimes, LBC officers have cleared cases involving \$1,046,651 of stolen or missing property.
- To ensure the proper shipment of cattle and to avoid theft and confusion of ownership, the LBC officers monitored and inspected 314,436 animals at video or public sales.
- The LBC recorded 4,702 brands during the last registration period.
- In a collaborative effort, LBC officers, together with the United States Department of Agriculture recorded information for the Market News report at 364 livestock sales. LBC also assists Veterinary Health Services (VHS) with completing check in slips (totaling 98,746) from twelve (12) auction markets.
- LBC officers provided expertise and assistance to other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in investigating intra- and interstate farm related crime.
- LBC instituted a public information program whereby LBC officers conducted various informational programs for entities as well as private citizens in regards to livestock identification and farm crime prevention. These venues range from outside agency training, cattlemen meetings, police intelligence meetings or any gathering of people engaged in agriculture.
- LBC officers act as first responders for LDAF's ESF 4 and 11 role in Homeland Security issues and have completed ICS courses 100, 200, 700 and 800. LBC are also being trained to respond to bioterrorism threats involving crops and livestock.

- During the preparation, relief and recovery for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the LBC officers provided specialized assistance when executing LDAF's ESF 4 and 11 responsibilities. Our duties ranged from 24-hour security details at fuel sights and animal shelters to monitoring the shipment of cattle out of coastal parishes to avoid theft and confusion of ownership. LBC officers were utilized in every aspect of the LDAF response.
- In order to keep abreast of the changes in laws and techniques, the LBC has instituted a continuing education/training system for the LBC officers, whereby 25 hours of continuing education/training will be expected each year.

VETERINARY HEALTH DIVISION: The mission of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Office of Animal Health and Food Safety, Veterinary Health Division (VHD) is to protect livestock from infectious diseases through diagnostic, preventative, eradication and other measures. The Division is responsible for protecting the public health and general welfare of Louisiana citizens by ensuring the safety of the meat and poultry in the food chain. Furthermore, the Division is responsible for ensuring the safety of all animals during a large scale emergency or disaster, whether accidental or intentional.

In order to fulfill its mission, VHD ("the Division") is overseen by the Louisiana Board of Animal Health (formally, the Livestock Sanitary Board). This regulatory body is responsible for the adopting rules and regulations for the control of livestock disease, holding hearings and conduct investigations, issuing public charters (auction markets), quarantine, test, and vaccinate for disease control, holding civil proceedings and imposing civil penalties for violations. VHD is responsible for the work assigned to it from this Board. The VHD also supports the Aquaculture Coordinating Council, and the Louisiana Aquatic Chelonian (Turtles) Research & Promotion Board. The three boards and council have 12 meetings involving 144 man hours a year. This dynamic allows the reader to understand the multi-faceted dimension of our Division, under the direction of the Interim State Veterinarian and Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Brent Robbins, supervising 32 employees positioned around the state to perform the necessary assignments.

- Three laboratories in our Division performed 139,379 completed animal disease diagnostics annually for the State and its citizens.

- The Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory (PDL) located in Homer oversees the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPI), *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella typhoid* (pullorum & typhoid) surveillance, Avian Influenza surveillance, testing birds prior to slaughter, disease investigation, performs necropsies, and performs litter and soil testing. The primary mission of the PDL is to meet the disease surveillance requirements of the NPPI. The commercially integrated poultry producers are required by law to monitor for *Salmonella*, *Mycoplasma*, and Avian Influenza on a prescribed schedule. The Avian Influenza testing is done on broiler flocks prior to marketing and on breeder farms twice yearly. During fiscal year 2007-2008, the PDL ran 38,588 AGID tests for 3102 farms. This instills consumer confidence in the food chain, but also allows the Department to discover emerging influenza outbreaks before they can gain a foothold, and spread out from an index flock. The other diseases mentioned are monitored for the overall health of the birds, but to also eliminate these highly contagious bacteria and viruses from the seed stock used to supply our broiler farms.

- In addition, the PDL maintains testing and shipping records for 56 NPPI farms (including 2 major United States companies) on site at the lab. All eggs shipped into and out of Louisiana must be accompanied by movement forms attesting to their origin and compliance with the aforementioned disease surveillance. The same is true of chicks, poults, ducks, pheasants etc. that are shipped into Louisiana to individual farms and feed/supply stores. The lab maintains the data and applies for NPPI certification numbers for flocks that participate in the Pullorum testing program. These services are offered at no charge to the public. The PDL provides bacteriology, serology and gross pathology diagnostic services to the corporate poultry industry, but also aids backyard flock owners and hobbyists with their avian health issues. The PDL performs litter analysis for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and moisture content. This fee based service provides a quick turnaround of the nutrient content, so farmers can begin applying it to their pastures on a timelier basis.

- The state has twelve auction markets with weekly sales. Employees of the VHD oversee the animals that are sold looking for signs of disease as well as performing health related tests. The data collected from these sales are recorded by our Division as well as other record keeping: 134 Herd Certifications, 508 Brucellosis Test Records (cattle), 87 Pseudorabies and Brucellosis Test Records (swine), Tuberculosis Test Records for Cattle, Deer, Exotics and Zoo Animals, 29,086 calves vaccinated and maintenance of Calfhood Vaccination Charts, Slaughter Test Records (454s), and 320 Mycoplasma tests. Check in slips (totaling 98,746) from auction markets, 320 454s Market Reports, 30 127s (permits for "Movement of Restricted Animals from Auction Markets"), and National Standard Program Reports for Brucellosis and Tuberculosis. Reports are also given by our Division to the Brand Commission and the USDA Market Report on 147,282 head.
- Regulatory Diseases and other Disease Programs are monitored daily by our Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) at the auction markets. These diseases include Cattle and Swine Brucellosis, Cattle and Swine Tuberculosis (TB) (with Comparative Cervical Testing of suspicious cases), Pseudorabies, Highly pathogenic and Low pathogenic Avian Influenza, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), EIA surveillance and 22 EIA laboratory monitoring, microchip program (including entering over 65,000 EIA data sheets yearly to maintain the microchip data base), and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Scrapie and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)). Quarantines are issued on all horses and other livestock that are not in compliance with the state regulations or laws.
- Other disease programs include collection of data on Encephalitides-Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), West Nile Virus (WNV) & others, including Rabies. Weekly reports by our Division are sent to Louisiana Public Health Veterinarian in the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Parish Mosquito Controls, USDA, and information is also forwarded to the World Animal Health Organization in Paris, France. On a lesser scale, but still monitored, are Johne's Disease (5 farms), *Mycoplasma* Mastitis Program, Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) (150 EVA vaccine requests), Equine Herpes Virus, Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). Our Division, working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Health Plant Inspection Service (AHPIS), Veterinary Services (VS), worked to locate and diagnose the first case of White Spot Disease in Crawfish in the United States.
- Protecting Louisiana animal agriculture by monitoring for foreign animal diseases, regulatory diseases and other diseases within this fiscal year have included the work of six Foreign Animal Disease Diagnosticians, sixteen foreign animal disease investigations (including a malignant catarrhal fever case), work at 250 auctions and 30 rodeos, fairs and shows.
- Other regulatory activities include issuing, receiving, approving and/or disapproving 40,000 Animal Interstate Imports and Exports, issuing 500 permits for animal movement, approving 50 biologics from 30 companies, management of the Alternative Livestock program (47 harvest pens, 227 breed pens, 15 new breed license, 3 new harvest licenses, 60 inspected pens, 125 interstate permits, 477 licenses and permits), 75 Equine Passports, Emergency Preparedness, Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD) investigations and all other unusual or reportable disease outbreak investigations. Planning and deployment for Rapid Response Teams within our Division is being instigated to deal with animal emergencies. Within this planning is overall planning and deployment of Louisiana Animal (and Agriculture) Response Teams within this division and office. Our Division has other joint ventures with USDA APHIS VS, including the National Veterinary Accreditation Program.
- Overall, 246,715 inspections, herd tests, records and other items were performed for regulatory disease surveillance, including monitoring movement of animals into and out of our state.
- Our AHT and VMOs work on several Homeland Security Grants (2000 man hours), USDA Cooperative Agreements (High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, 404 man hours), Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI, 1278 man hours), Live Bird Market (LBM, 392 man hours), Swine Health (1204 man hours), Johne's Disease (5 farms, 1 investigation), and Foreign Animal Disease Surveillance (1284 FADs)).

- Cooperative agreement management involves tracking approximately 7362 manpower hours and writing quarterly reports. Our Division is also the repository for every parish animal emergency plan as well as plans received from a host of other animal related businesses (>500 items) as charged by Acts 2006, No. 615 (Pet Transportation Act). Planning associated with this unfunded mandate has involved 300 meeting hours and approximately 4,500 contact hours by our staff.
- This Division has written and executed 4 scenarios for emergency drills. This coordinated planning includes integration with the USDA APHIS VS and the Area Emergency Coordinator (AEC). Along the lines of disease tracking, our Division receives and issues 824 premises identification numbers associated with Premises Identification Program as part of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) to developing a data base of agricultural related business and other animal related items in Louisiana. This includes 1750 hrs of man hours and 200 hours of lectures to the Louisiana public. The Division continues to work with parish leaders to develop Critical Infrastructure Protection Plans that included integrating those parish leaders into the Agricultural Response Team, offering Incident Command System training, offering agroterrorism awareness and response training, credentialing responders (issuing Emergency ID badges and transport certificates), and insuring the proper fit of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- This Division will participate in a multi-state, multi-agency exercise with the National Veterinary Stockpile (similar to the Strategic National Stockpile) set for the last week of April 2010 through the first week of May.
- Additional work performed by our Division yearly include 60 4-H show health certificate check-ins, 10 inspections and approvals of animals purchased by Louisiana Prison Industries, 40 CWD brain section collections, organizing the *Mycoplasma* mastitis program (320 milk samples handled), certifying 13 Bonds & Letters of Credit for auction markets, collecting information on 150 EVA vaccinated horses, inspecting 31 litter/poultry incinerators, inspect 1200 offals & inedibles businesses, processing over 1000 orders for veterinarians and monthly inspections of 36 rendering plants and 20 EIA laboratory inspections.
- Our Division provides regulatory monitoring for the Louisiana turtle industry, shipping turtles with a carapace less than 4 inches to countries around the world. Our VMOs visit 67 farms, perform 67 annual inspections, sample 268 ponds, making 175 visits during the turtle season (April to October) to collect 250 samples and write 64 CVIs prior to shipments.
- Outreach to the state, nation and world include involve participation on United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committees, answering questions daily from many Louisiana citizens, training veterinary students from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine as well as other veterinary schools, participation at the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association meetings, professional and other agricultural groups, active association with the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine, and publishing a quarterly Veterinary Health Services Newsletter. This involves our veterinarians to attend and participate as a committee member, speaker, or leader at 300 meeting hours, totally approximately 4,500 contact hours.

FEDERAL / STATE COOPERATIVE MEAT & POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM:

In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes (RS 3:4201 – 4233), the forty-three (43) employees of this program continue to ensure that consumers receive only safe, wholesome, unadulterated, properly labeled meat and poultry products. The Meat and Poultry Inspection Program is a cooperative state-federal program receiving 50% of its funding from USDA. The program is responsible for inspecting all meats of animals slaughtered and processed in Louisiana facilities; inspecting and approving premises of meat facilities according to federal and state requirements; operating a federally accredited laboratory for analyses of meat samples; reviewing and approving all labels of meat and meat products to assure that accurate product information is supplied to the consumer; and investigates violations of meat and poultry regulations such as illegal slaughter, processing, and sale of uninspected meat products.

As a result of carrying out our duties, the following was accomplished during the past fiscal year:

- Passed annual review by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) certifying that the Louisiana State Meat Inspection Program is "at least equal to" federal inspection requirements and received 50% of operating expenses from the USDA totaling \$2.4 million.
- Stopped the sale of livestock carcasses originating from three illegal slaughter operations and prosecuted those involved.
- Decreased the number of program personnel from a high of 142 in the 1990s to the present level of 43.
- As required by the Federal/State cooperative agreement, established a state EIAO (Enforcement Investigations Analysis Officer) position responsible for conducting Food Safety Assessments for all state plants.
- Continued to ensure that consumers receive only safe, wholesome and unadulterated meat and poultry products by inspecting all animals slaughtered and/or processed as follows:

Number of State Inspected Facilities	81
Pounds of meat and poultry inspected	36,841,697
Number of slaughtered livestock inspected	25,914
Number of laboratory samples monitored	1,267
- Maintained a cooperative agreement with USDA to provide state inspection personnel for staffing seven meat and poultry processing facilities operating under a Food Safety and Inspection Service Grant of Inspection. The state program is reimbursed for this staffing by USDA.
- Inspection personnel reviewed 100% of state plants' HACCP (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point) and SSOP (Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures) plans ensuring that all state and federal requirements are met.
- Program headquarters established, implemented and maintains the USDA requirement for a PBIS (Performance Based Inspection System) for all processing and slaughter facilities.
- Prevented meat and poultry products spoiled as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike from entering commerce, directed the proper disposal of products that were found to be unfit for human consumption and regulated the return of safe food production to meat and poultry processing operations affected by the hurricanes.
- Maintained an accredited laboratory program at Louisiana State University that analyzes meat and poultry products for the presence of food borne pathogens such as *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella*, and *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7. The laboratory also analyzes meat and poultry products for economic adulterates such as added fat and water.
- Management personnel continue to review and approve all meat product labels ensuring accurate ingredients, net weights, formulations, and other areas of non-food safety consumer protection concerns.
- Meat Inspection Enforcement agents continue to conduct reviews of retail outlets, distribution warehouses, institutions, and other facilities handling meat products to determine if state and federal requirements are met.

GRADING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes RS 3405 and RS 3:410, this is a voluntary grading and certification program (i.e. service provided only at the request of the vender or purchaser) for meat and meat products and for fish and fish products. This program assures buyers that meat, poultry and fish purchased is suitable for the purpose for which it was bought. This program is funded partially through a \$0.04/pound fee for certification services that generated approximately \$250,000 last fiscal year. Meat inspection program personnel are cross-trained to conduct grading and certification inspections. Meat inspection personnel are also cross-licensed to perform seafood inspections under a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Commerce. The G&C Program is reimbursed by USDC for providing personnel to perform these inspections. The program has also partnered with the Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board to develop and implement a state Shrimp Quality Certification Program within the next year.

POULTRY & EGG DIVISION: In carrying out the statutory responsibility stated in R.S. 3:405 and R.S. 3:410, fifteen (15) full time staff members protect consumers by insuring that poultry and egg products are wholesome and are of the quantity and quality represented on product labels. As a result of carrying out our duties, the following was accomplished during the past fiscal year:

- Our inspectors educated public and private entities as needed on all issues concerning proper labeling and grading issues covering poultry and eggs.
- Store inspection certificates issued – 4,403. Total dozen inspected 1,337,635
- Stop sale orders issued on eggs – 306. Total dozen removed 16,002
- Egg product certificates issued – 1186. Total pounds inspected 210,221
- State and institutional egg inspections – 80. Total dozen inspected – 73,530
Fees collected - \$1,943.95
- PY-240S certificates issued on eggs – 83. Total dozen inspected – 339,780
Fees collected - \$11,094.26
- PY-240P certificates issued – 117. Total pounds inspected – 3,241,265.63
Fees collected - \$112,481.17
- Continued to maintain Federal-State agreement with USDA covering resident grading at USDA egg plants.

LOUISIANA EGG COMMISSION: In carrying out the statutory responsibility stated in R.S. 3:551.1-3:551.11, the poultry and egg staff are responsible for the regulations and enforcement of all rules and regulations pertaining to the Louisiana Egg Commission. We monitor fees collected on assessments to insure proper guidelines are followed and licensing fees are collected as required by this statute. We also promote egg and egg products through promotional events through out the year; this includes trade shows, magazine ads, radio spots, breakfast demonstrations and informational material/handouts.

- Fees collected on assessments \$475,283.71
- Fees collected on license applications \$22,300

FOOD QUALITY SERVICES: In carrying out the statutory responsibility stated in R.S. 3:405 and R.S. 3:410, eight (8) full-time licensed inspectors certify fruit and vegetables purchased by state institutions and school systems across the state. These inspections are on a voluntary basis and performed at vendor sites across the state. Of the eight full time inspectors, one (1) is a federally licensed fruit and vegetable collaborator and two (2) inspectors in training, this is a Federal-State cooperative agreement with the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Branch to provide an unbiased third party inspection on fruit and vegetables.

- State institution and school certificates issued – 852. Total pounds inspected – 3,920,796 – Fees collected \$22,409.94
- Federal Collaborator certificates issued – 499. Total pounds inspected – 4,922,796
Fees collected \$115,578.02
- Enforces Proof of Origin on all produce that is labeled as a Louisiana product by verifying receipts from Louisiana growers.
- Collect and run citrus maturity test on all citrus grown in Louisiana.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION: The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), Office of Animal Health and Food Safety, provides the home base for an ad hoc emergency management division. LDAF has numerous responsibilities as outlined in the Louisiana State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). These responsibilities include being the lead agency for 2 of the 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF). These are ESF 4- Firefighting (wild land / rural) and ESF 11- Agriculture. Within the ESF 11, duties include the acquisition, storage and delivery of fuel and fueling resources for life saving, life supporting, life sustaining, emergency response, relief and recovery missions. It also includes the evacuation, sheltering, care and reunification of Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) companion animals (pets) during an emergency or event. LDAF also is support to 9 additional emergency support functions. The Department's vast knowledge of emergency management and protocols have put us on the front lines nationwide as a first responding agency.

- LDAF delivered numerous truckloads of water to numerous municipalities when their systems went down.

- By utilizing organic assets of LDAF, a rapid response is possible from numerous regions of the state. The Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and LDAF have an open line of communication and peripheral support agreements to provide assistance as needed in areas suffering from an emergency or disaster.
- The Department also was able to deliver 450 tarps to tornado stricken communities throughout south Louisiana on a moment's notice. LDAF was aware of numerous severe weather events that caused insurmountable damage to numerous populated regions of the state. The Department took initiative and pre-loaded vehicles with tarpaulins and readied to assist. Once the call for assistance was received, we had tarps on the ground within the hour. This proved to be vital in the protection of property from further damage.
- The Department, with the support from local law enforcement as well as the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, assisted flooded farmers in Point Coupee parish by rapid deployment of a cattle penning and relocation team to prevent losses from the rapidly rising Mississippi River. Using the Department's large animal rapid response teams, the cattle penning and relocation team rescued and relocated of approximately 200 head of cattle in the Morganza Spillway region of the parish.
- During the catastrophic 2008 hurricane season, LDAF spearheaded the delivery of approximately 796,150 gallons of unleaded gasoline, 874,178 gallons of diesel, and 105,400 gallons of aviation fuel for first responders, state agencies, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, hospitals and other critical entities. The Department was able to locate and have on stand by approximately 4,000,000 gallons of off-road diesel, 1,000,000 gallons of on road diesel, and 4.2 million gallons of unleaded gasoline. The Department, in conjunction with its contracted emergency fuel vendor, was able to set up numerous strategically placed logistical staging areas capable of storing and dispensing fuel to the necessary entities.
- The Department also was successful in the evacuation, sheltering, care and reunification of approximately 1600 CTN companion animals in four state run shelters. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) assisted LDAF by allowing the pets to go on the motor coaches with their owners, as well as provided contracted specialized transportation to move the animals to a sheltering site out of harms way and to a co-located shelter. The Louisiana Department of Social Services assisted in the planning and co-location of the human sheltering facilities near our animal shelters greatly reducing the labor needed to care for the animals. The Louisiana Department of Corrections provided labor in setting up the cages and sheltering facilities.
- LDAF, with cooperation from the Louisiana National Guard, was able to deliver approximately 700 large bales of hay to stranded cattle and horses via helicopter. We were also able to deliver 120,000 gallons of fresh water to cattle stranded by salt and brackish water. This prevented a potential public health emergency by providing life sustaining necessities to the animals, preventing a sure death and loss to our producers.
- LDAF provided storage for commodities utilized in mass feeding operations throughout the state.
- LDAF provided storage for 296 pallets of ice and delivered numerous truckloads to the devastated areas.
- LDAF is currently storing numerous essential items for other state agencies to be utilized during an emergency. We continue to store the pet supplies (transport cages, sheltering cages and all necessary supplies) left over from the storms. Replacement supplies will be stored also.
- LDAF has trained 450 departmental personnel in the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System to ensure cohesiveness during an event, emergency or disaster.
- LDAF has a fully staffed Incident Management Team prepared to respond to natural disasters, animal and public health emergencies, and any other agricultural emergencies.
- LDAF has formed the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Emergency Response Committee. This working group is elemental in the overall preparedness of the department as a lead agency for essential emergency support functions and a support agency to the state.

SECTION TWO: EFFICIENCY AND BENCHMARKING

Because the budget for Office of Animal Health and Food Safety has been reduced continually over the last ten years, the administrators and employees of this division continue to accomplish our stated mission and strive to surpass the expectations of the citizenry served by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

SECTION THREE: OUTSOURCING/PRIVATIZATION

The Office of Animal Health and Food Safety's regulatory responsibilities are mandated by statute and cannot be legally outsourced or privatized.

This division has explored avenues for outsourcing laboratory testing and has implemented that where applicable.

SECTION FOUR: IT INTEGRATION

1) The Office of Animal Health and Food Safety has explored the implementation of a commercial software program to assist the inspectors with check-ins at the auctions and sale barns. Unfortunately, budget constraints have prohibited acquisition.

Estimate: \$19,700

2) In order to save on postage and printing and be more consumer-friendly, this office will seek to develop the means for individuals to apply on-line for licenses, permits, and then remit payment for our services where feasible. After on-line applications have been processed and payment is received, allow individuals to print their own licenses, permits and certificates from a secured access database.

3) Continue to update our public website to allow:

- a) Our constituents to access and download the most up-to-date information regarding the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety and
- b) Our employees the most up-to-date reference and training materials on the department intranet reference and training materials.

SECTION FIVE: ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND UNNECESSARY SERVICES

In January 2007, Commissioner Strain began his first term in office and made known his top priorities for his administration: streamlining programs, efficient management of taxpayer's money and quality public service. Under his direction, the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety immediately explored all statutory responsibilities and searched for the most efficient ways to accomplish our mission.

SECTION SIX: CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

The purpose of the Retirement Incentive Program was to realize the full savings of the vacant positions left behind by the retirees. LDAF will realize a savings of approximately \$800,000 by reducing the number of department employees by 43.

As a result of the retirement incentive program, ten employees of the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety (AHS) retired. Responsibilities and job duties for all other vacant positions due to retirement are being divided and assumed by other AHS employees.

The Office of Animal Health and Food Safety will therefore fully realize savings in salary and related benefits of \$532,538.

LDAF will not be filling the following positions:

Veterinary Services

State Veterinarian - Deputy Commissioner Brent Robbins, DVM will also assume the duties of interim state veterinarian.

District Supervisor

Administrative Coordinator 3

Agriculture Specialist 2

Meat Inspection

Veterinarian

Ag Specialist District Supervisor – New Orleans

Ag Specialist 3

Fruits/Vegetables

2 Inspectors

Livestock Brand Commission

Ag and Forestry Enforcement Program Manager

SECTION SEVEN: STUDIES AND OTHER RESOURCES

INFORMAL STUDY

Recently, the administrative staff of the Louisiana Meat Inspection Program conducted an informal study of the industry it regulates. The results and pertinent information follows:

Number of private sector employees: 730

Annual gross sales for state inspected plants: \$ 83,000,000

These facilities mainly consist of small or very small family owned rural plants that cater to the local community. USDA does not have sufficient staff to provide inspection services to these small plants that often operate on a part-time schedule. States that have dropped their inspection programs have lost a majority of meat processing plants. In Arkansas, the number of plants dropped from 339 in 1981 to 126 in 1991 when the state eliminated its inspection program. Michigan lost approximately 200 plants over that same time period. It is anticipated that over 50% of Louisiana's privately owned, state inspected facilities would be forced to close without the Meat Inspection Program.

Along with the loss of over \$2,000,000 in federal funds and 43 state employees, closures of these businesses would negatively impact local communities with the loss of private sector jobs, the loss of sales and income tax revenues, and the ability for livestock producers and meat processors to market local products.

AFFILIATIONS

The divisions of the Office of Animal Health and Food Safety are affiliated with these associations:

Livestock Brand Commission:

SSLREA - Southern States Livestock and Rural Enforcement Association

ROCIC- Regional Organized Crime Information Center

NLIA- National Livestock Identification Association

LCA- Louisiana Cattlemen's Association

LSA- Louisiana Sheriff's Association

LDAA- Louisiana District Attorney's Association

NCIC- National Crime Information Center

NCA- National Cattleman's Association

Veterinary Health Services:

SAADRA - Southern Animal/Agriculture Disaster Response Alliance

USAHA - United States Animal Health Association

AVMA - American Veterinary Medical Association

LVMA - Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association

BRAVMA - Baton Rouge Area Veterinary Medical Association

Meat Inspection and Grading and Certification:

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

US Department of Commerce

Louisiana Meat Processors Association

National Association of State Food and Meat Inspection Directors

LSU Food Science Department

Poultry and Egg - - Fruits and Vegetables:

Louisiana Poultry Federation Board

NERO - National Egg Regulatory Officials

The American Egg Boards